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**For Immediate Release:** Oct. 1, 2002

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### ***Kernan Names Sims to Head Region Ten; Indiana University Research Park Selected for Commerce Office in Bloomington***

BLOOMINGTON — Kicking off the Indiana Department of Commerce's modernization efforts, Lt. Governor Joe Kernan today named Doris Sims as Region 10 director and selected the Indiana University Research Park as the department's regional office headquarters.

Including Bartholomew, Brown, Decatur, Greene, Jackson, Jennings, Lawrence, Monroe and Owen counties, the regional office will serve as a "one-stop" shop for the state's economic development activities.

"This is an outstanding combination and we are thrilled," said Kernan, who serves as the director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. "Doris brings a great deal of experience and expertise to the job – that, along with the resources and partnerships that will be created by working with IU, will result in countless new opportunities for the entire region.

"This regional approach is a bold change to the way we attract and keep quality businesses," the lieutenant governor added. "It is arguably the biggest undertaking in the agency's history, and we're confident that it will pay off with more good jobs for Hoosiers."

Currently serving as the executive director of the city of Bloomington's Housing and Neighborhood Development Department and executive director of the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association, Sims has lived in Bloomington since 1975. She also previously served as the city's director of personnel. Sims earned a bachelor's of science degree in public administration from IU in 1979 and went on to earn a master's in public affairs in 1998.

"Doris is an outstanding choice – her ability to work with people combined with her wealth of experience in community development and at various levels of local government will be a great asset to not only Region 10, but to the entire state. We are glad to have her on board," said Kernan.

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As regional director, Sims will act as Commerce's representative in the field and will be responsible for the overall management of the regional office and delivery of agency services. In addition, Sims will develop and maintain partnerships with regional business and community organizations and their leaders, collaborate with regional governments and local organizations on economic development projects, evaluate regional development needs and formulate a regional strategic plan, as well as educate the public on Commerce programs and services.

"I couldn't be happier to have this opportunity to lead this great region," said Sims. "This area of the state has a lot going for it, but we also have a lot of challenges that must be addressed. I look forward to working with the people of this region and am truly thankful for the chance that Lt. Governor Kernan and Commerce have given me."

Partnering with IU, the new office will be located in the Indiana University Research Park located at 501 North Morton. It is expected to be operational by mid-November.

"Indiana University has been a great partner with the state and they have and will continue to play a vital role in our state's economic development efforts," said Kernan. "Affiliating a regional office with IU makes a lot of sense – not only is this site easily accessible to the public, it provides *us* with access to the latest research and technology. Our thanks go to IU for their generosity."

Lt. Governor Kernan announced plans to modernize the Department of Commerce in July after more than a year and a half of research. Last week he named Chuck Martindale head of regional operations, and later today Kernan will name the Region Four director and office site. Tomorrow, the lieutenant governor will announce the director and office location for Region Six.

For more information on the Indiana Department of Commerce, the new regional offices or its programs, contact Jeff Harris, media relations director, at 317.232.2464 or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com)

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